

PHOENIX OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE

The Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture supports all Arizona schools receiving credit within the formula for providing quality arts education.

The Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture (POAC) was established by the Phoenix City Council in 1985 to advance the growth and development of the city's arts and culture community. POAC works on behalf of residents and visitors to foster a sense of cultural identity, celebrate diversity, and ensure an outstanding quality of community life.

The Arts Learning Program of the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture works to ensure that Phoenix residents of all ages have access to diverse, interdisciplinary, multicultural arts experiences that inspire creativity, enhance the quality of life, and strengthen communities. Additionally, the program focuses on collaborative, sustainable, and accessible ways to integrate creative opportunities into Phoenix schools, neighborhood communities, organizations, and businesses. Core programming areas include Arts & Culture Learning Partnership Grants with arts organizations and schools, ensuring quality educational components for Festival grants, expanding ArtsBuild, a S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) educational program engaging Phoenix residents of all ages in the creative and collaborative process of designing and building a modern city, and professional development for teaching artists, arts educators, and arts organizations.

The Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture believes when youth participate in the creative process they become engaged, passionate citizens of their community. By ensuring students have access and receive credit for the arts, we build a stronger, more engaged, and robust place to live.

The arts not only build community but contribute to individual development. An internationally recognized brain research organization, the Dana Foundation, reported increased cognitive development with those participating in the arts:

Memorization skills increase when learning dance choreography, a sheet of music, or lines in a theatrical play.

Analytical Thinking increases as a visual artist adds the next detail to a piece of work.

Observation skills deepen when viewing a performance and having discussion afterwards.

Business leaders are searching for employees with these abilities to help solve problems and develop innovative approaches to services and products. Cultivating these skills early is critical to the ability of young people to compete and succeed in today's workplace. Including arts credits with the ADE's education formula will ensure this success.